

*Bill will provide \$7.9 million for a new Family Support Center on Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst*

Washington, DC - Today, Congressman John Adler voted to pass the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Bill. This measure will provide the necessary resources and authorities to ensure that our military is fully prepared for threats and challenges worldwide and that our troops get the benefits they deserve and have earned. The bill will also direct millions of dollars to important projects on Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst.

"Our troops must have the resources to successfully complete their missions in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Congressman Adler, whose district includes Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst. "We must support the brave men and women in uniform who keep us safe. This legislation will also help keep and create jobs for New Jersey residents whose work supports our troops."

Highlights of the bill include:

**Military Pay Raise:** Provides a pay raise of 3.4 percent, an increase of 0.5 percent above budget request.

**McGuire Air Force Base to construct a new Family Support Center (\$7,900,000):** This funding will construct a new Family Support Center as part of a building mission relationship between active duty and associate reserve forces to achieve mission objectives and supporting Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst.

**New Jersey Air National Guard to replace Base Civil Engineering Complex (\$9,7000,000):** This funding will provide the 108th Air Refueling Wing with properly sized and adequately configured facilities to house the wing's civil engineering administrative, maintenance, training functions. This project will ensure readiness, and alleviate safety issues by replacing WWII-era buildings with a new facility.

**Extended TRICARE Eligibility for Reserve Members:** Extends TRICARE eligibility from 90 days before they go on active duty to 180 days.

**Prohibits TRICARE Fee Increases:** Prohibits fee increases on TRICARE inpatient services care for one year.